



# City of Cincinnati

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## **New Community Development Division Managers Named to Lead Neighborhood-Focused Projects Department Takes Next Step in Re-Organization**

Today, City Manager Valerie Lemmie presented two new division managers for the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP) to City Council. Herman Bowling and William (Bill) Fischer were named as the new managers for the housing and business development divisions, respectively. The two men have been promoted from within the department to the new positions as the DCDP re-organizes under a new director, Michael Cervey, and a new management plan.

"I think it is important that we optimize the talented staff we have and use their institutional knowledge to achieve the changes we seek for the department and the neighborhoods," said City Manager Valerie Lemmie.

The appointments are part of the reorganization the department is undergoing to increase the effectiveness of its operations, focus on neighborhood housing and business development, and provide increased accountability and oversight of projects. To this end, the department is now divided into four divisions: Planning, Housing, Business Development, and Operations. With the two new appointments, three of the divisions have managers; the search for the operations division manager is underway. Each division will have a representative on each of the five development opportunity teams, created to provide focused service for neighborhood projects.

"Herman and Bill have shown great leadership as the re-defined department evolves to meet neighborhood needs," said Michael Cervey, Director, Community Development and Planning. "They have the experience, the knowledge and the drive to successfully undertake our important community projects."

In his role as housing division manager, Bowling primarily will oversee rental rehabilitation programs, market rate housing construction, affordable rental development, and monitoring of the city's supportive housing programs. Bowling, whose salary is now \$83,500, has been employed by the city's Department of Community Development and Planning since September 1982. Recently, he served as the project manager for the Mills of Carthage Housing Development that involved the acquisition and site preparation of a 13.5 acre industrial brownfield site for the development of 60 new single-family manufactured homes. Additionally, he has served as the program manager for the Urban Homesteading Program in which he monitored the acquisition, award and rehabilitation of more than 200 single-family housing units for first-time low-to-moderate income homeowners. Bowling has been acting supervisor of housing for the past six months, serving as part of the management team responsible for the re-alignment of the department's service delivery into Development Opportunity Teams.

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In July 2004, Fischer was named interim manager for the department's Business Development Division, which supports job creation and retention and focuses on small business, industrial, and neighborhood business development. Fischer began his career with the city in 1999 when he joined the then-named Department of Economic Development focusing on small and neighborhood based businesses. He later served as a project manager and brownfield development specialist for the city's Department of Community Development and Planning. His duties included providing support for industrial redevelopment and coordinating the city's redevelopment strategies for environmentally-challenged properties. In this capacity, Fischer worked with his colleagues in the city's planning and environmental departments to create the Strategic Program for Urban Redevelopment (SPUR), providing the city with a proactive approach to the redevelopment of vacant, contaminated or underutilized commercial property. Fischer, whose salary is \$81,500, completed his M.S. in public administration from Northern Kentucky University.

In 2001, Fischer received his certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional from the National Development Council. He was a speaker on local brownfield programs at the 2003 National Brownfields Conference in Portland, Oregon and at last years Brownfields Conference in St Louis, Missouri.

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